

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01

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R 210353Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5737

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 3658

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, RP, TW

SUBJECT: ROC-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

REF: TAIPEI 3418

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: THE GROC AND THE PHILIPPINES HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS AND EXCHANGE TRADE MISSIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE GOP "SO FAR" HAS EXPRESSED THE INTENTION TO MAINTAIN "ALL RELATIONS" OTHER THAN DIPLOMATIC WITH THE ROC. ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD WITHSTAND PRC PRESSURE IF PRC WAS OPPOSED TO CURRENT AGREEMENT, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE GROC WILL FOR ITS PART MOVE QUICKLY TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. END
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SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN -CHANG-HUAN CONFIRMED LOCAL PRESS REPORTS JUNE 20 THAT THE RP AND THE ROC HAD REACHED AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH SUB-DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE PHILIPPINES' FAR EAST TRADE PROMOTION CENTER (FETPC) AND THE ROC'S PACIFIC ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CENTER (PECC) WILL BE THE OPERATING AGENCIES FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES. PECC OFFICES WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN MANILA, CEBU AND DAVAO--SITE OF FORMER GROC DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES--AND FEPTC WILL HAVE AN OFFICE IN TAIPEI WITH THE OPTION TO OPEN BRANCH OFFICES IN TWO OTHER LOCATIONS. PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTED THAT ONE BRANCH MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN KAOHSIUNG; HOWEVER, WE VIZJ THIS AS UNLIKELY AT THIS TIME.

3. GROC HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF LIU TSUNG-HAN (0491/1350/3466) AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS COMMISSION SO THAT HE CAN ASSUME HIS DUTIES AS HEAD OF THE PECC OFFICE IN MANILA. (LIU IS A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER AND FORMER AMBASSADOR. WE WILL FURNISH BIOGRAPHIC DETAILS BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.) LIU TOLD EMBOFF HE EXPECTED TO BE PO MANILA EARLY IN JULY.

4. IN DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN SAID THAT GOP HAS "SO FAR" EXPRESSED THE INTENTION TO MAINTAIN "ALL RELATIONS OTHER THAN DIPLOMATIC WITH THE ROC. THE GOP HAD FIRST STATED THIS POSITION EARLY LAST YEAR THROUGH AMBASSADOR RAMOS AND HAD REITERATED IT SINCE THEN. SHEN, HOWEVER, SAID THAT HE WAS "KEEPING HIS FINGERS CROSSED" SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATION THAT MARCOS HAD OBTAINED PRC AGREEMENT TO THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT MARCOS WOULD BE ABLE TO RESIST PRC PRESSURE SHOULD IT RAISE OBJECTIONS.

5. SHEN ADDED THAT HE THOUGH IT UNREALISTIC TO THING THAT GROC/GOP RELATIONS COULD BE "AS CLOSE AS BEFORE". ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT TOLD THE GOP SHEN SAID HE CLEARLY FORESAW A "REDUCTION IN ANYTHING THAT EXISTED ON THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL."

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6. SHEN BELIEVED PRIVATE COMMERICAL TRANSACTIONS WOULD CONTINUE AS LONG AS IT REMAINED PROFITABLE, BUT NOTED THAT THESE WERE NOT VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE ROC. HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT "QUOTE A FEW" FILIPINO POLITICIANS HAD PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN TAIWAN-PHILIPPINES TRADE, BUT THERE WERE NO ROC OFFICIALS WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. (ALTHOUGH EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY GROC POLITICIANS WITH INVESTMENT OR TRADE TIES TO THE PHILIPPINES,

WE UNDERSTAND, AS STATED REFTTEL, THAT THERE ARE INVESTMENTS
AND FAMILY TIES IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM TAIWAN THROUGH THE
OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY THERE.)

7. FYI: MOFA HAS TOLD EMBOFF INFORMALLY THAT BOTH
PHILIPPINE AND CHINESE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD ACCEPT VISA
APPLICATIONS, BUT AT THIS TIME IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THE
OFFICES WILL ACTUALLY ISSUE VISAS. IF THE FETPC CANNOT
ISSUE VISAS IN TAIPEI, THIS MAY CREATE PROBLEM FOR U.S.
MILITARY - ESPACIALLY MEDEVAC - TRAVEL TO THE PHILIPPINES.
WE WILL BE PROBING FOR PHILIPPINE INTENTIONS ON THIS
POINT. END FYI.
UNGER

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